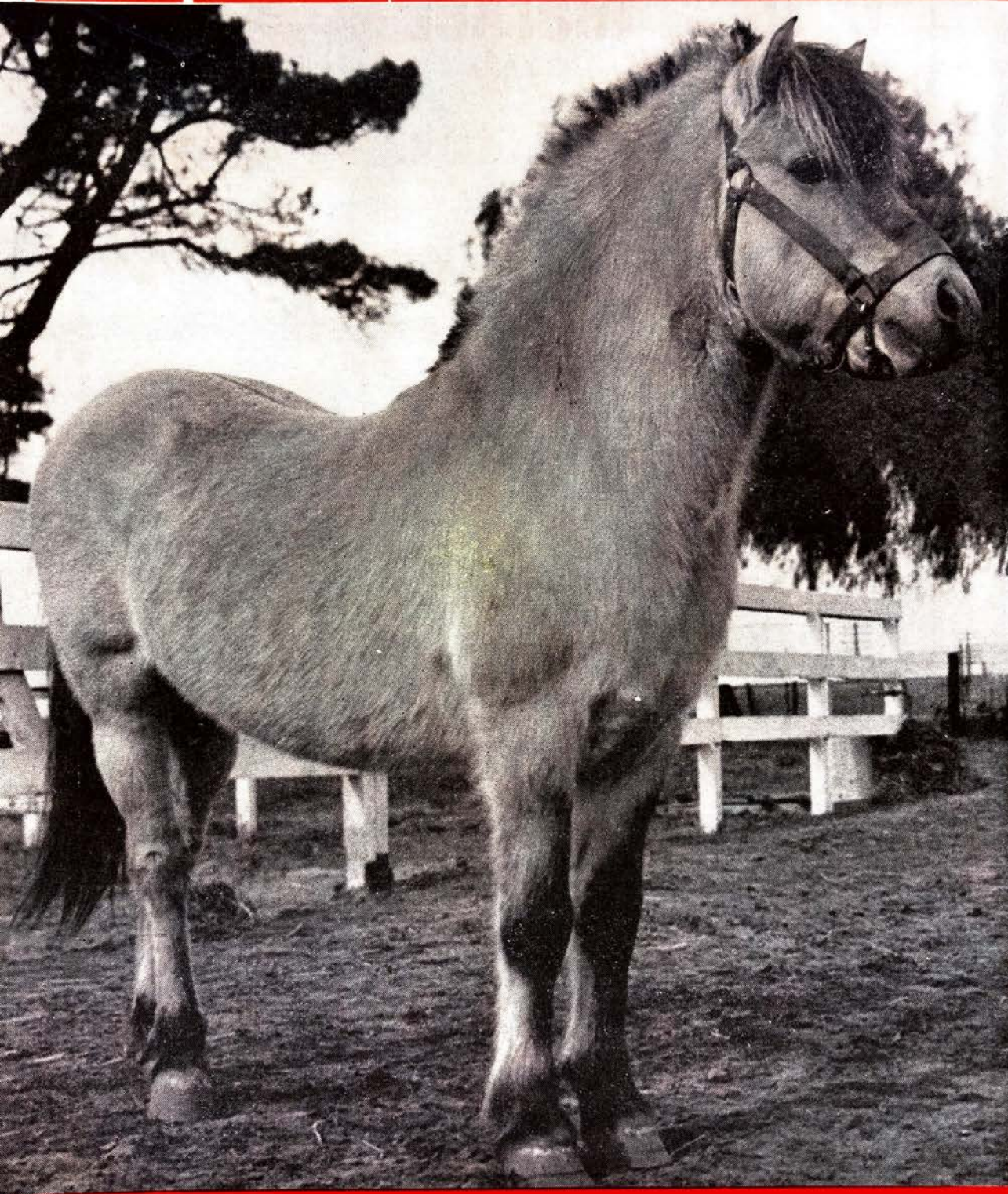




# *The Trail Blazer*

OFFICIAL ORGAN METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION · OAKLAND, CALIF.



FEBRUARY - - 1949



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VOL. XVI, No. 12

February, 1949

## The Trail Blazer

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**METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION**  
 Oakland, California

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Marcia Eggerts

### DEADLINE 10th OF THE MONTH

All copy subject to editorial revision

## Editorial

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

With Spring virtually just around the corner attention is being focussed on the trails and the improvements which will add much to the enjoyment of the riders.

While many plans have been discussed concerning the maintenance of the trails, it is necessary for some action to be taken at once in order to assure adequate funds for this work.

True, a portion of the membership dues will be turned over for this work, and your activities chairman, Clarence Simons, is already busy at work on plans for a social event with all proceeds to be turned over to the trails committee.

However, there is another way in which each and every one of you can have a part in this project. As you all know, your board of directors voted not to increase the dues for the current year. The recommendation of the budget committee was for a five dollar a year membership. Since the board voted to keep the dues at the very low cost of three dollars, for adults, and one dollar for juniors, why not include a contribution when you send in your memberships? This extra two dollars from each member would go a long ways towards trails work. Too, there are no doubt many members who feel they would be willing to make larger contributions. It is an idea worthy of thought.

### Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 3 — M.H.A. board meeting.

Saturday, February 5 — Concord-Mt. Diablo trail ride association Western dance. Veteran's building, in Concord.

Thursday, March 3 — First Open Forum.

### M.H.A. OFFICERS

JIM MYERS . . . . .	President
HEBER J. BROWN . . . . .	Vice-President
WILLIS PRAY . . . . .	Treasurer
MARY GALE . . . . .	Secretary

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### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Date: Thursday, February 3

Time: 8:00 P.M.

Place: Jim Myers' Office:

Central Bank Bldg., 12th and Broadway

### OUR COVER

Here 'tis! The new Westland horse, Viking Berstad, now belonging to Fred D. Parr, of San Francisco, and currently receiving a great deal of attention at the Parr ranch, near Richmond. The horse is said to be one of five of its kind in the United States at the present time. A detailed story appears on page 4.

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## WESTLAND HORSE NOW AT PARR RANCH

Receiving a great deal of attention at the Fred D. Parr ranch, near Richmond, is the Norwegian "Westland" stallion, Viking Berstad, recently acquired by Mr. Parr from John D. Reilly, president of the Todd Ship Building company, in New York.

Viking Berstad was imported in September, 1939, from Norway. A buck stallion, he was born in 1936. It is said he has a stallion's temper, but has always been gentle and easy to handle. He has been both worked and ridden and has sired nine foals.

Typical of the Westland breed, information on which comes from J. Baashuus-Jessen, State Stud-Book registrar, of Oslo, Norway, in his "Live Stock Breeding in Norway", it is learned that the Westland breed, formerly also known as the Fjord-horse, inhabits the western part of the country, and is no doubt, a survival of the primeval horse of the country, which has persisted in the isolated fjord- dales comparatively uninfluenced as to type until modern times.

The general type of coloration of the breed is always accompanied by some very characteristic dark stripes in the coat, the most salient of which is the dorsal stripe or "eel" beginning at the occipital crest and continuing all over the vertebral column to far out in the tail. Very common, but not invariably present even in typical specimens of this breed, are a few stripes on the under and rearmost part of the forearm and across the inside of the hocks.

In Viking Berstad the mane and tail darker hairs in the dorsal line on both sides are trimmed with nearly white ones, so that in the mane a central dark stripe and two lateral light ones appear.

These horses are sold to other parts of the country and are in great demand among smallholders, market-gardeners, and in the town for small delivery vans, chiefly for their longevity and capability to produce much work on small rations. Occasionally they have been exported to Sweden and Denmark, and in the latter half of the 18th century also to Rumania and England. It

is said that there are only five Westland horses in the United States at the present time.

Surefootedness and lightness are the principal features in the gait of these horses. The trotting action is somewhat short, but quick, though real trotters are rarities.

According to Mr. Parr, Mr. Reilly, original owner of the horse, makes frequent trips to the Pacific coast and is much interested in the breeding of fine horses and cattle.

Appearing elsewhere on this page is an advertisement inviting anyone interested to visit the Parr ranch and see the new horse.

### Contra County Posse To Mardi Gras

Members of the Contra Costa Sherrif's posse will leave February 22 by special train for New Orleans where they will participate in the annual Mardi Gras parade. Approximately 200 members and their families will make the trip.

#### YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

to see my new horse, Viking Berstad, imported from Oslo, Norway. He is a Westland stallion with unusual characteristics.

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# Membership News

## MEMBERSHIPS DUE BY FEBRUARY 1

The Centennial year of 1949 is one in which your association will be called on for many activities. The officers of M.H.A. are justifiably proud of the accomplishments that have been made over a period of years and each member should likewise be proud of the organization and of the healthy growth in its membership.

You will receive, in the mail within a day or two of the receipt of this magazine, your statement for yearly dues.

Some of you have already sent us your checks and in that case you should disregard the payment of dues, but we ask you to give consideration to our request for donations to our trails budget.

Those of you who have not sent us your dues should send your check to the new treasurer immediately upon receipt of your statement.

We have sent you an envelope already addressed so that all that is required is for you to enclose your money and send your membership dues along with other contributions as you may see fit.

We have not begun our membership drive until this time because we wanted it thoroughly prepared and we are very desirous of having a drive now which will bring in your membership and give to your officers the encouragement to proceed in your behalf in this organization.

Let's get everybody signed up in membership by February 1, 1949 and then proceed with the business that we all want to do in 1949.

Very sincerely yours,

HEBER JAMES BROWN,  
Membership Chairman.

## New Board Holds First Meeting

With President James A. Myers in the chair, members of the board of directors held their first meeting of the year on Jan. 6. Highlights included plans for the membership drive, as outlined by Chairman Heber Brown.

Clarence Simons, as chairman of activities announced that plans are underway for the first event of the year, sometime in March, with all proceeds going to the trails fund.

A. B. Graham, trails chairman, presented a plan whereby a percentage of membership dues would be allotted to the trails.

A letter of resignation from Harold Cummins was read and accepted. Mr. Cummins having left Oakland. No decision as to a successor to his place on the board was determined.

Mrs. Edna Collins, editor of the Trail Blazer, was named publicity director.

Mrs. Kay Walling, junior chairman, was unable to be present due to illness, but sent a report that plans are already underway for many activities for her group.

Plans for the annual M.H.A. horse show were discussed, with members of the committee planning to present the name of the show manager at the February meeting.

January Additions: This list includes memberships up to and including January 14th.  
\*Indicates Trail Donations.

### RENEWALS

C. W. Fouts	Betty Marquis
Kathryn Fouts	James A. Myers
Mary Gale	Ida Myers
A. B. Graham	Don Phelps
Mrs. A. B. Graham	W. C. Pray
Don Gratton	Janet Pray
Mrs. Brenda Gregg	Don Schwimley
Don Marquis	Bea Schwimley

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## M.H.A. ANNUAL HORSE SHOW JUNE 25-26



# M. H. A. Activities

## REGIONAL MEETING HELD IN OAKLAND

Region No. 5 held its first meeting of the year at the Moose City club, in Oakland, with Vice President Fred Anderson introducing the guests of the evening. Included were Ed Zweirlein, president of the California State Horsemen's association; Vice Mayor Clifford Rishell, James Warren, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stone, George Cardinet, and Mr. and Mrs. James A. Myers.

Jim Warren gave a comprehensive report of the progress of the trails in the state, plans having been completed in 16 counties.

Mrs. Earl Sanko announced that only three of the clubs in the region have paid their share of the deficit from the meeting at Mt. Diablo, and those clubs having not already paid are urged to do so.

Mr. Anderson spoke on the proposed field day-gymkhana to be a feature at the state convention, in Sacramento, when there will be two contestants from each region instead of four as in the past.

The next regional meeting will be held in San Pablo-Richmond district in April with Leo Armstrong as chairman; George Cardinet will head the committee planning the Concord-Mt. Diablo meeting on June 18 and Cliff Clark will serve in the same capacity for the September meeting sponsored by the Castro Valley association.

Jack Richards served as chairman of the local meeting. The evening featured dinner and dancing following the business session.

## Concord-Mt. Diablo Annual Dance

Invitations have been received by the secretary for the annual Wild West Presidents' dance, at Veteran's Memorial building, Willow Pass Road and Colfax street, Concord, on Saturday, February 5.

The dance will honor Ed Zweirlein, president of the California State Horsemen's association; Fred Anderson, 5th regional vice president and the new trail ride association president, George H. Cardinet, Jr.

## Wedding Bells

Carmel Himmelman, popular member of the Lari-ettes, was married in December to Greg Laugher, well-known horse show judge.

Marylyn Smith, another swell person, is showing a beautiful diamond engagement ring. The lucky man is Leonard Landsborough.

## CRESSMOUNT CAROUSEL AT INTERNATIONAL SHOW

Step right up, folks! See the biggest little carousel number outside of Ringling Brothers. Riders in colorful attire on prancing steeds with nodding plumes and carrying gay lanyards while performing intricate figures on the traditional carousel! All of this to the music of a steam calliope was the outstanding feature on the 11th annual Cressmount Carousel program held Sunday afternoon, Jan. 9, in the Umbrella ring.

And present, to be so impressed that he invited Miss Cress to put on the act at each performance of the 10-day International Show in Oakland, Feb. 18-27, was Manager Dick Ryan. Miss Cress has also been asked to take charge of the jumping events of the big International show.

### Large Attendance

Despite ice-producing weather, spectators jammed the doors to the Umbrella ring to see the Cressmount annual show. Each group participated with Don Marquis and William M. Atkinson serving as judges; R. C. Van Den Berg, ringmaster; Barbara Bechtel, ring clerk; J. W. Boswell, Jr., time clerk; Mary Gale, number clerk; Archie Brown, sergeant at arms; Mrs. Ellsworth LaBoyteaux, ribbon clerk, and Dar La Barthe, herald.

Results follow: Jumpers, (1) Duffle Bag, Peggy Day; (2) Killarney, Karen Anderson; (3) Charlan, Lois Ann Blemer; (4) El Toro, Wilda Rosendahl. Family class, sponsored by the Bidoons, first place to "New Year's eve with the Bushes", Betty Bush, Hale Preble, Egon Ferrell and Juanita Gray. Costume pairs, sponsored by the Subalterns, (1) Wilda and Vandra Rosendahl, representing Arabs complete with tents, prayer rugs and gorgeous trappings; (2) Carol De Vilbiss and Janet Scott as followers of Robin Hood; (3) Jo Ann Schetter and Dede

Continued on page 10

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# "Stall"-ing Around

With The Roving Reporters

## With the Leona Riders

On December 17, 1948, the Leona Rider's board of directors held its first meeting at the home of President Don Phelps. It is hoped that under the new constitution the club will be better organized and will offer an opportunity for the entire membership, through representation, to have a voice in the club's activities.

For the past few months the juniors of the Leona Riders, have voiced their desire for a drill team. Needless to say, this can only be accomplished through the support of each and every junior. A card party will be given on February 5 at the Sequoia Lodge, proceeds of which will be used to defray the cost of the junior's uniforms. Hampton Ford, who participated in the mounted drills of the Riding Club at the College of the Pacific, will be the drill master. Elizabeth Frampton, has plans for some costume drills for the senior, as well as the junior, members of the Leona Riders, at the shows this summer. More about this later.

Lee Fowler, founder of the Club's polo teams, is eagerly awaiting the warm weather, so that the teams can again resume practice under the able guidance of Colleen McNery, a four goal player. There are about 26 members interested in playing polo.

A "thank you" is in order to the Pinto Ranch for the use of its clubhouse for the Yuletide party. Delightful refreshments were provided by Bill Barnard's family. Joe Sousa, and Hampton Ford, provided refreshments for the meeting on January 7.

Jimmy Wheeler spent the Christmas Holidays in Missouri. Tedda Beyler's two horses were seen walking down the middle of Mountain Boulevard, unchaperoned, and without a care in the world. They are now safe at home.

## At the Oakland

All of the owners of boarders at the Oakland Stable are looking forward to more fun during the coming year as the new barn containing eight box stalls is now completed and many new and handsome horses are moving in.

Nancy Danielson has brought her thoroughbred, Sir John Edwin, back to the Oakland over the Christmas holidays, but he will return to Davis with her when the new term begins.

The Lee Reiters have been exercising their two nice mares, Peasant Girl and Bonnie Lass, all throughout the cold weather. Jane Wood is also keeping her beautiful saddlebred, Murietta Bronze, in fit shape to do lots of riding during the coming spring.

## At the Pinto Ranch

The unseasonable cold and the rain have combined to keep many from enjoying the trails recently, but let the sun come out one day and you can see the Pinto Ranch horse owners gaily following their favorite trails.

We are happy to welcome several new horses to our barns including the beautiful palomino mare belonging to Wayne Elkins, the nice black horse owned by Art Briate and the showy sorrel mare, owned by Julie Wilson.

Ethel Albert is the owner of a new Don Bentley saddle.

Pat Shell has lost her beloved companion, Girlez, which has now gone where all good horses go.

## With the Lari-ettes

Newly elected officers of the Lari-ettes, named at the annual meeting January 5, include Ruby Welch, president; Norma Burton, vice president; Dorreen Decker, secretary; Margaret Rukavina, treasurer. Margaret is also captain of the Lari-ettes.

Gus and Elsa Himmelman took a trip to Santa Ana during the holidays to get acquainted with their new grandson, Gary William Lawrence.

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BERkeley 7-1955



## THE BRIDOONS

We're somewhat behind in our news, thanks to your reporter.

To mention a few of the high spots — 'Way back in November the Bridoons met over in Marin county for a wonderful three-hour ride in the hills thereabouts. Mr. and Mrs. Newton had a very tasty barbeque dinner waiting for us when we got back from the ride and the evening was concluded with singing "round the camp-fire" and some uproarious square dancing.

Also want to mention the sumptuous buffet supper we had at the home of Miss Cress, in December. The Bridoons were invited to drop in for a cup of coffee after the Tuesday night class, but the affair turned out to be a lovely party with everyone reporting a grand time. The Bridoons also participated in the Cressmount's colorful January show.

And so much for past events. As to the future—the Bridoons are now in the process of planning a show to take place at Cressmount in March. We are very anxious to have a large attendance and extend a cordial invitation to all of you to come and bring your friends. The show will include jumping, equitation and hunters classes as well as a few less serious events. By the way, if you'd like to participate, let us know. The actual date and entry fees had not been set in time for this issue, but all necessary details can be obtained by calling R. C. Van Den Berg, 850 Oak street, San Francisco, HEmlack 1-2591 or Miss Frieda Renner, 4130 Mera street, Oakland, KEllog 2-0953.

If you plan to attend the show call Cressmount for the date and time. We'll be looking for you.

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## Upson Downs

For the past few months Upson Downs Riding Club has had an active program of drills, equitation and games under the fine guidance of Woody Hansen, instructor. However, in order to be able to follow such a program it is necessary that the group be kept at a minimum of 16 regular advanced riders and, due to the loss of several of the "Regulars" Upson Downs members will welcome several more advanced flat saddle riders. Riders answering to the above qualifications, and who would enjoy working with Upson Downs, please come out to the Umbrella Ring at Cressmount on Wednesday evenings. Upson Downs has been working as a closed group but will be open to advanced flat saddle riders and will operate as an open class. Additional riders will be welcomed.



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## Fred E. Anderson

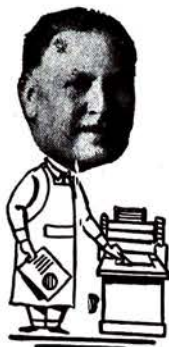
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## GOOD HORSE SENSE

(Prepared by E. G. LeDonne, D.V.M.)

Some New Year's thoughts which your horses will appreciate.

When you bring your horse out of a barn or box stall, don't mount and trot or gallop ala cowboy pictures. Walk him quietly for at least ten minutes in order that his blood will start circulating slowly. By the same reasoning, don't trot or canter at the end of a ride. Walking the first mile and the last mile is a good old English custom to which one should strictly adhere.

Don't take the saddle off of a hot horse as soon as you dismount. Do loosen the girth and then walk him leaving the saddle in place. The same applies to the driving collar and saddle.

Do not jerk your horse's head up if he stumbles, he needs complete freedom so that he can recover his balance. Keep a steady light hold on his mouth at such times.

Do not throw your weight backward going up or down hill. Keep well forward, the steeper the hill the more forward you should be. This leaves the horse's hind-quarters free and helps him dig in his toes.

On very steep or very rocky or hard surfaces do not trot or gallop your horse. Allow him to pick his way down such places, but with a firm hold to check any desire he may have to rush the last few steps. Harness horses that are used much on hard roads are usually shod with rubber. Furthermore they do not bear the weight of a rider, and so may be permitted to trot on ordinary hard surfaced roads.

Be regular as to the schedule or amounts in feeding your horse. Arrange things so that he may be fed a regular ration promptly. No horse will do well if fed one day at four o'clock, at seven the next and at six the following day.

## Continued from Page 6

Brandes, as knights in armour; (4) Linda Lorimer and Karen Anderson as Buttons and Bows. Musical stalls, sponsored by the Pegasus Patrol, (1) Killarney, Linda Lorimer; (2) Kyack, Lynn Cuttle; (3) Gold Cargo, Susan Tucker; (4) Duffle Bag, Bonnie Banker. Hap-hazard was over a varied course using a line of wash, tumble down bed, string of buckets, four-way jump and chairs. This was won by (1) Indian, with Ann Conwell up; (2) Killarney, Pat Brandes; (3) Duffle Bag, Dede Brandes; (4) Kyack, Helen Shafer.

## Dads Participate

Father's class was open to fathers of participating riders. Winners were (1) Steamboat Bill, with Howard S. Gardner; (2) Indian, M. D. Eubanks; (3) Adobe, H. P. Hamilton and (4) Noah, Daniel Dewey.

The Carousel number was the highlight of the show, with George Rausch and Frank Carvajal doing a bang-up job as ring masters, and with Mr. Van Den Berg's announcing adding a great deal to the act. Barnyard frolic brought hens and roosters from their cozy quarters, and each rider wore a chicken mask and ruff of feathers and had to carry an egg on a spoon while riding at walk, trot and canter. This event was won by Mary Gale, riding Kyack. The fire drill put on by boys of Pegasus Patrol was won by the Red team, consisting of Windy Smith, Chester Polmgren, Scott Gilmore and Krist Gudnasson.

## With the Boots and Jeans

The Boots and Jeans club will hold its third annual Western dance on February 16 at the Big Bear tavern, 7300 Redwood road. Music will be furnished by the Circle O boys who will play for both round and square dancing. A door prize drawing will be held every hour.

A group consisting of Paul Brewer, Alfreda Holm, Dottie and Lefty Bowers and Dutch Cummings attended a trails meeting held at Pacheco Adobe, in Concord, as guests of the Contra Costa Horsemen's association. The engineer for the state-wide trail was present and explained the project in detail, outlining what is being done in the different counties. Work will start immediately in Contra Costa county, and weather permitting, should be completed in the near future.

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## First Show At Sacramento

The first show of the season was held at Sacramento in mid-January, the affair being one of three held annually under the auspices of Barbara Worth. Sandra Logue, junior member of M.H.A. was among those participating.

## Theater Club

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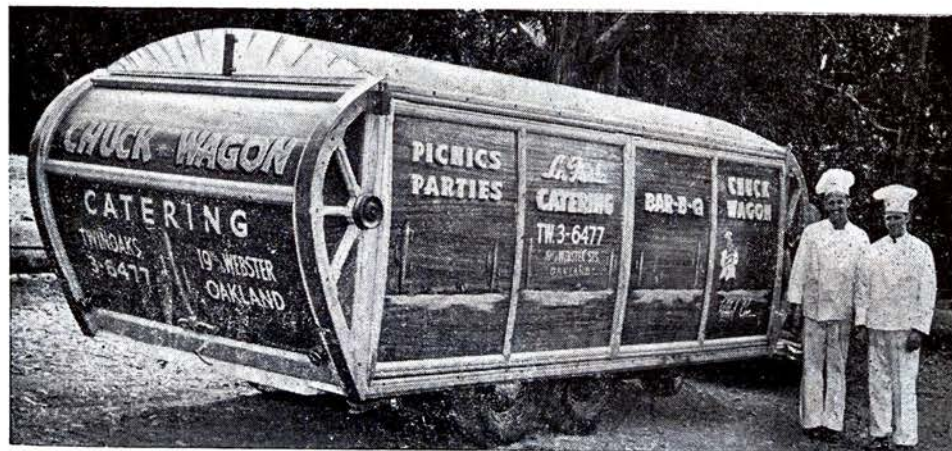
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